

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PANAMA 03367 151847Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 /021 W
-----106368 151854Z /43

R 151838Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7010

UNCLAS PANAMA 03367

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CDES (HILTON, JAMES BEASON)
SUBJECT: DEATH OF STAFF SERGEANT JAMES BEASON HILTON

REF: 7 FAM 441.2-1

1. ON 19 FEB 78, SSGT HILTON WAS LOST IN SURF AT VENADO BEACH, PANAMA. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ASKED TO EXECUTE FS-192 TO ALLOW WIFE TO COLLECT DEATH BENEFITS. AS PER REFERENCE, CASE WAS REFERRED TO EMBASSY MILGROUP WHO IN TURN REPLY THAT AS THEY ARE NOT AN ATTACHE OFFICE, THEY CAN NOT ASSIST. RESULT, CATCH 22.

2. DETAILS ARE AS FOLLOWS, TAKEN FROM FORM DD 13PP DATED 23 FEB 78. HILTON, STATIONED AT HOWARD AIR FORCE BASE IN CANAL ZONE, WAS AT BEACH IN INTERIOR OF PANAMA WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS. HILTON WAS LAST SEEN IN SURF AFTER BEING KNOCKED OUT OF AN INNER TUBE BY A WAVE. HE WENT UNDER AND DID NOT SURFACE. AN IMMEDIATE SEARCH BY FRIENDS SWIMMING NEXT TO HIM FAILED TO RECOVER BODY. A FOLLOW UP AIR SEARCH ALSO HAD NEGATIVE RESULTS. REPORT CONCLUDES "SSGT HILTON VENTURED INTO DANGEROUS WATER WITHOUT PROPER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS (IE LIFEBELT) WHICH ULTIMATELY LED TO HIS APPARENT ACCIDENTAL DEATH BY DROWNING. AS OF 8 MARCH 1978, THE BODY HAS NOT BEEN FOUND."

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3. EMBASSY REQUEST THAT APPROPRIATE REPORT BE MADE TO DOD AS PER REFERENCE. ADVISE IF FS-192 SHOULD BE PREPARED. JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780558/aaaabxkg.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 07821c9f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2689188
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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